

Serial No. N/A
Preliminary Amendment dated December 2, 2003
In Rely of N/A

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-18 (cancelled).

19 (original). A manhole having an openable and closable manhole cover, comprising:

- a) a manway defining the manhole;
- b) the manhole cover being hingedly attached to the manway;
- c) the manhole cover including a hinge frame assembly;
- d) a seal provided on the manway;
- e) a pin provided for securing the manhole cover to the manway;
- f) a locking and sealing assembly being provided adjacent to the cover; and
- g) the locking assembly including a locking and sealing element for engaging the cover with the seal for locking and sealing the manway.

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20(original). A manhole having a cover as in claim 19,
wherein:

a) the locking and sealing element includes a threaded locking post, the threaded locking post being moveable relative to the hinge frame assembly and the cover for locking and sealing the cover with the seal.

21(original). A manhole having a cover as in claim 19,
wherein:

a) a groove is provided in the seal, the groove being configured for receiving a rim of the manhole cover.

22(original). A manhole having a cover as in claim 21,
wherein:

a) the pin is provided between the hinge frame assembly and the manway, and the pin secures the hinge frame assembly to the manway.

23-26(cancelled).

27(new). A manhole as in claim 19, wherein:

a) a mounting flange is provided adjacent the manhole cover.

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28 (new) . A manhole as in claim 27, wherein:

- a) a bolting flange is provided adjacent the manway.

29 (new) . A manhole as in claim 28, wherein:

- a) a gasket is mounted between the bolting flange and the mounting flange.

30 (new) . A manhole as in claim 28, wherein:

- a) the mounting flange is bolted to the bolting flange.

31 (new) . A manhole having an openable and closable manhole cover, comprising:

- a) a manway defining the manhole;
- b) the openable and closable manhole cover being movably attached relative to the manway;
- c) a hinge provided between the manhole cover and the manway; and
- d) a blind flange provided adjacent the hinge, the blind flange being configured for being attached to a bolting flange of one of the manway and an existing manway.

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32 (new). Manhole as in claim 31, wherein:

- a) an existing manway includes a tank-installed manway of the type providing access to the interior of a tank; and
- b) the blind flange is attachable to a bolting flange of a tank-installed manway of the type providing access to the interior of a tank.

33 (new). Manhole as in claim 31, wherein:

- a) a seal is provided for creating a leak proof joint between the cover and a cover receiving surface when the cover is in a closed position.

34 (new). Manhole as in claim 31, wherein:

- a) a gasket is mounted between the blind flange and a bolting flange of an existing manway.

35 (new). Manhole as in claim 31, wherein:

- a) the blind flange is boltable to a bolting flange.

36 (new). Manhole as in claim 31, wherein:

- a) the mounting flange is weldable to a bolting flange.

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37 (new) . Manhole as in claim 31, wherein:

- a) the openable and closable manhole cover is an outwardly opening manhole cover.

38 (new) . Manhole as in claim 31, wherein:

- a) a seal is provided on the manway; and
- b) a groove is provided in the seal, the groove being configured for receiving a rim of the openable and closable cover.

39 (new) . Manhole as in claim 31, wherein:

- a) a pin is provided between the openable and closable manhole cover and the manway, the pin being configured for securing the cover to the manway.

40 (new) . Manhole as in claim 33, wherein:

- a) the hinge includes a hinge frame assembly;
- c) a locking assembly is provided; and
- b) the locking assembly includes a threaded locking post, the threaded locking post being movable relative to the hinge frame assembly and the openable and closable cover for locking and sealing the cover with the seal.

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41(new). Manhole as in claim 40, wherein:

a) the locking assembly includes a locking post base adjacent the threaded locking post, and the locking post base is fixed relative to the cover.